

Message Text

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UNCLAS THESSALONIKI 0202

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SUBJECT: EARTHQUAKE SITREP NO. 15

REF: THESSALONIKI 0194

1. THESSALONIK' S NEWEST PARLOR GAME IS
JUDGING THE STRENGTH OF EARTH TREMORS, AND WITH
EXPERIENCE THE INHABITANTS ARE GETTING FAIRLY
GOOD AT IT. LAST EVENING EVERYONE WAS PLAYING,
OUTSIDE TENTS, IN GARDENS AND ON STREET CORNERS,
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PAGE 02 THESSA 00202 141404Z

IF NOT IN PARLORS, AS THE CITY WAS HIT BY
TREMORS OF 4.3 AND 4 ON THE RICHTER SCALE.
THIS MORNING THERE WAS ANOTHER TREMOR GENERALLY
CONSIDERED TO BE ABOUT 4 ON THE RICHTER, BUT THE
OFFICIAL FIGURE HAS NOT YET BEEN ANNOUNCED.
THERE WERE NO DAMAGES OR INJURIES. IN ALL, THERE
HAVE BEEN 26 TREMORS RECORDED BY INSTRUMENTS

IN PAST 48 HOURS, MOST OF WHICH WERE NOT PERCEPTIBLE TO THE PEOPLE.

2. THE CONTINUATION OF THE TREMORS AS OPPOSED TO THEIR TAPERING OFF HAS CONVINCED MANY THAT AT LEAST ONE MORE BIG QUAKE CAN BE EXPECTED, AND THERE IS LITTLE INCLINATION FOR MOST PEOPLE TO RETURN TO THEIR HOMES. THE RELATIVE CALMNESS, HOWEVER, WITH WHICH THE NEW TREMORS HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED AND DISCUSSED BY PEOPLE NOW ENSCONCED IN TENTS AND OTHER DWELLINGS WHERE THEY FEEL SECURE INDICATES THAT THE FEAR THAT CHARACTERIZED THE PREVIOUS WEEKS IS ABETTING SOMEWHAT. NEVERTHELESS, THE FEAR IS SUFFICIENT TO KEEP THE CITY FROM RESUMING A NORMAL ECONOMIC LIFE.

3. THERE ARE OTHER MORE CONCRETE REASONS FOR ECONOMIC LIFE TO REMAIN SUBDUED. THUS FAR, 2,644 INDUSTRIAL ESTABLISHMENTS HAVE BEEN EXAMINED FOR STRUCTURAL SOUNDNESS OF WHICH 86 PERCENT RECEIVED THE "GREEN" CARD FOR CONTINUED USE, 3 PERCENT RECEIVED THE "YELLOW", MEANING REPAIRS ARE REQUIRED BEFORE FURTHER USE, AND 14 PERCENT THE "RED" OR THE BUILDING IS CONDEMNED. THE HOUSING SITUATION IS WORSE. OF 50,316 BUILDINGS EXAMINED, THE MAJORITY OF UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 THESSA 00202 141404Z

WHICH ARE MULTI-FAMILY DWELLINGS, 74 PERCENT RECEIVED A GREEN, 18 PERCENT A YELLOW, AND 8 PERCENT A RED. THE REDS ARE TO BE RE-EXAMINED. IN VILLAGES OUTSIDE THE CITY AND CLOSER TO THE EPICENTER OF THE QUAKE, 58 PERCENT OF THE INSPECTED DWELLINGS ARE GREEN, 26 YELLOW AND 16 RED. IN THE TOWN OF LANGADA, CLOSE TO THE EPICENTER, 80 PERCENT OF THE DWELLINGS RECEIVED A RED.

4. TO GET SOME IDEA OF HOW REASSURED PEOPLE ARE BY THESE BUILDING INSPECTIONS, WE CONDUCTED AN INFORMAL POLL OF OUR LOCAL EMPLOYEES. THEY REPRESENT A GOOD RANGE OF ECONOMIC CLASSES AND LIVE IN NEIGHBORHOODS THROUGHOUT THE CITY. OF 19 EMPLOYEES POLED, 13 NORMALLY LIVE IN GREEN CARD BUILDINGS, 4 IN YELLOW AND 2 IN RED. PRESENTLY, 16 ARE LIVING IN TENTS, AND ONLY 3 HAVE RETURNED HOME. THE AMERICAN STAFF CONTINUES TO OCCUPY THE GREEN CARD CONSULATE BUILDING.
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